



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS: COUNTY WORKING TO CONSERVE FUEL

County Executive Unveils Hybrid Vehicles and
Announces Use of Biodiesel Fuel

At a news conference held at the Monroe County Fleet Center, Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks** announced steps the County is taking to conserve fuel and alleviate the impact of rising gasoline costs.

Brooks announced that several County departments will reduce their fuel consumption by 10-15 percent. The Departments include the biggest users of fleet vehicles – Environmental Services, Transportation, Parks, and the Greater Rochester International Airport.

Brooks also announced that the County recently began using biodiesel fuel for some of its fleet. It has also acquired six hybrid Ford Escape vehicles that are being used by the Department of Environmental Services.

“Rising gasoline prices are impacting consumers and businesses throughout our area and across the country. Monroe County is also feeling the impact of these rising prices,” said **Brooks**. *“That is why we are taking steps as a County government to conserve fuel where we can and be more efficient in our fleet operations.”*

Monroe County operates and maintains over 850 vehicles, in addition to more than 250 Sheriff’s vehicles. The amount of unleaded gasoline Monroe County purchases each year is about 410,000 gallons. The amount of diesel fuel is about 216,000 gallons.

“Because the County has such a large fleet, conserving fuel and controlling costs is something we always look at. Since the cost of gasoline has risen so dramatically, we’ve re-evaluated how the services we provide to the community can be delivered in the most cost-effective manner,” **Brooks** continued. *“The move toward hybrid vehicles and biodiesel fuel is part of our long-term focus, and we will continue to seek out additional ways we can conserve and save.”*

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In addition to the six hybrid vehicles at the County, the Parks Department currently uses 13 electric carts in Monroe County parks that replace gasoline-operated vehicles. The Sheriff's Department has two electric cars stationed at the Airport.

The biodiesel fuel is located at the Rochester Operations Center on East Henrietta Road, the VanLare Treatment Plant in Irondequoit, and the County fueling facility on Scottsville Road. Biodiesel fuel, a renewable fuel, consists of 80 percent diesel and 20 percent soy oil.

The Departments of Environmental Services, Transportation, Parks, and the Greater Rochester International Airport each expect to reduce their fuel consumption by 10-15 percent.

The Departments have taken steps to cut back on fleet use and fuel consumption. These include the following:

- Assigning multiple work crews to one vehicle
- Eliminating idling of engines
- Reducing inspection of DES facilities to once a week, for example, sewer pump stations
- Operating Airport fire equipment only on emergency or required drills and inspections
- Staging equipment on the job site until the project is complete, instead of transporting vehicles each day, where possible
- Prioritizing work projects to minimize fuel consumption and maximize staff.

The County's computerized traffic signal system, which is used to manage countywide traffic flow, has a significant impact on the fuel consumption of motorists traveling within Monroe County. 435 of the 614 traffic signals in the County are on the computerized system, which helps reduce delay to commuters, thereby helping to reduce fuel consumption.